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Westminster, October 19.

HIS Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, Sir William Saunderson, Gentleman-Usher of the Black-Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers; the Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to make the following most gracious Speech to both Houses.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Acquainted you, when we parted last, with our having renewed all our Treaties of Commerce with Spain; since which, Peace is happily restored in the North, by the Conclusion of the Treaty between the Czar and the King of Sweden; and by that which I have made with the Moors, a great Number of my Subjects are delivered from Slavery; and all such of them as Trade to those Parts of the World, are for the future secured from falling under that dreadful Calamity.

In this Situation of Affairs we should be extremely wanting to ourselves, if we neglected to improve the favourable Opportunity, which this General Tranquillity gives us, of extending our Commerce, upon which the Riches and Grandeur of this Nation chiefly depend. It is very obvious, that nothing would more conduce to the obtaining so Publick a Good, than to make the Exportation of our own Manufactures, and the Importation of the Commodities used in the Manufacturing of them, as practicable and easy as may be; by this Means the Balance of Trade may be preserved in our Favour, our Navigation increased, and greater Numbers of our Poor employed.

I must therefore recommend it to you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, to consider how far the Duties upon these Branches may be taken off, and replaced, without any Violation of Publick Faith, or laying any new Burthen upon my People. And I promise my self, that by a due Consideration of this Matter, the Produce of those Duties, compared with the infinite Advantages that will accure to the Kingdom by their being taken off, will be found so inconsiderable, as to leave little Room for any Difficulties or Objections.

The supplying ourselves with Naval Stores upon Terms the most Easy and least Precarious, seems highly to deserve the Care and Attention of Parliament. Our Plantations in America naturally abound with most of the proper Materials for this Necessary and Essential Part of our Trade and Maritime Strength; and if, by due Encouragement, we could be furnished from thence with those Naval Stores, which we are now obliged to purchase and bring from Foreign Countries, it would not only greatly contribute to the Riches, Influence, and Power of this Nation, but, by employing our own Colonies in this useful and advantageous Service, divert them from setting up, and carrying on, Manufactures which directly interfere with those of Great Britain.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It will be a great Pleasure to me, if, in raising the Supplies of this Year, it may be so ordered, that my People may reap some immediate Benefit from the present Circumstances of Affairs Abroad. I have ordered Estimates to be prepared for the Service of the ensuing Year, and likewise an Account of the Debts of the Navy, to be laid before you. You cannot but be sensible of the ill Consequences that arise from such a large Debt remaining unprovided for; and that as long as the Navy and Victualling Bills are at a very high Discount, they do not only affect all other Publick Credit, but greatly increase the Charge and Expence of the current Service. It is therefore very much to be wished, that you could find a Method of discharging this part of the National Debt, which of all others is the most heavy and burthensom; and by that Means have it in your Power to ease your Country of some part of the Taxes, which from an absolute Necessity they have been obliged to pay.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The unspeakable Misery and Desolation that has of late raged in some Parts of Europe, cannot but be a sufficient Warning to us, to use all possible Precautions to prevent the Contagion from being brought in among us; or if these Kingdoms should be visited with such a fatal Calamity, to be in a Condition, with the Blessing of God, to stop its further Progress. And as all other Provisions will be altogether vain and fruitless, if the abominable Practice of Running of Goods be not at once totally suppress'd, I most earnestly recommend to you, to let no other Consideration stand in Competition with a due Care of preserving so many Thousand Lives.

The several Affairs which I have mentioned to you, being of the highest and most immediate Concern to the whole Kingdom, I doubt not but you will enter into the Consideration of them with that Temper, Unanimity, and Dispatch, that the Necessity and Importance of them require.

Madrid, Oct. 6. The Queen of France sets out for that Country the next Month; their Catholick Majesties have declared they will accompany her as far as Burgos. The Duke of St. Simon is expected here very soon; his Agents are providing a magnificent Equipage for him, having already bought five Coaches and as many Sets of Mules, with other Things suitable.

Paris, Oct. 25. On the 22d Instant in the Afternoon Madamoiselle de Montpensier was Christened in the Chapel of the Palais Royal by M. de Tressan, Bishop of Nantes, First Chaplain to the Duke Regent, the Dutchess Dowager of Orleans being Godmother, and the Duke of Chartres Godfather; she was named Louise Elizabeth: The Duke and Dutchess of Orleans assisted at that Ceremony with a very numerous Court. The Marquess de Maulevrier is named by this Court Ambassadour at Madrid jointly with the Duke of St. Simon. The Pope's Nuncio presented some Days ago to the King the Pope's Bull for a Jubilee, which will be published very shortly. Madamoiselle de Montpensier's Departure for Spain is fixed to the 15th of next Month. This Court has been very pressing with the King of Spain to send the Infanta hither forthwith, notwithstanding the Rigour of the Season; and she will arrive at St. Jean de Luz much about the same Time as Madamoiselle de Montpensier, whom the Chevalier d'Orleans is appointed to conduct to Madrid.

Hague, Oct. 21. A Frigate of 36 Guns, commanded by Captain Wys, is arrived at the Texel from cruising in the Channel, to revictual. Several of her Men fell sick during the Cruise, and five died, but the rest are recovered. The Admiralty of Amsterdam having caused Enquiry to be made into the Nature of the Distemper, are fully satisfied that it was of an ordinary kind, and not at all Pestilential: Whereupon they have ordered the Ship to be re-victualled.

St. James's, Oct. 21. On the 16th Instant the Marquess de Puozzo Bueno, his Catholick Majesty's Minister, had a private Audience of His Majesty at Kensington, being introduced by the Right Honourable the Lord Carteret, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and presented a Letter to His Majesty from the King of Spain, notifying the Marriages of the Infanta with his most Christian Majesty, and of the Prince of Asturias with Madamoiselle de Montpensier.

Whitehall, Oct. 21. Sir John Norris, with the British Fleet under his Command, sailed the 6th Instant from Elseneur, and arrived at the Nore Yesterday Morning.

St. James's, Oct. 21. Yesterday being the Anniversary of His Majesty's Coronation, there was a very numerous and spendid Appearance of the Nobility and other Persons of Distinction at Court; and